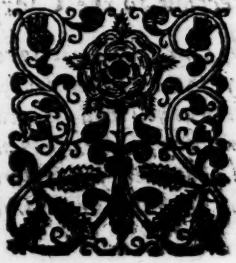
ARTICLES TO BE ENQVIRED OF BY THE MINISTER AND CHVRCH-WARDENS of every Pariſh within the Arch-Deaconrie of *Northumberland*;

Which are given in Charge in the Annuall Viſitation of E. Gower, B. in Divinitie, late Fellow of Jesvs Colledge in Cambridge, and Arch-Deacon of that Juriſdiction.

Levit. 19. 12.

Ye ſhall not ſweare by my Name falſely.



J. Sparke

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The tenour of the Oath to be administred *to the Church-wardens.*

YOu shall sweare, that you and every of you, shall diligently enquire of all and every of these Articles given you in charge; and that laying aside all affection, hatred, feare of displeasing others, or any by-respect whatsoever, you shall present all and every such person or persons, of, or within your Parish, or who lately were of your Parish, who are offenders, or who vehemently are suspected to bee offenders, according to any thing contained in these Articles: And this you shall doe uprightly and fully, as placing the Judge of Heaven and Earth before your eyes. So helpe you God, and the holy Gospell of Jesus Christ.

Direction to the Clergie.

YOu are desired by your Ordinarie, to reade these Articles distinctly unto your Churchwardens, and to warne them of their dutie, so often as you shall see occasion, but especially to meet together some day, before they are to give in their Presentments: and that then you conferre with them, in directing them about the same Presentments, for the better preventing of their perjuries.

E: GOWER.

Concerning the MINISTERS.

WHether doth any take vpon him to reade Prayers in any of your Churches or Chappels, who is not admitted into sacred Orders, or otherwise hath a toleration from the Lord Bishop of the Diocesse, for so doing? And being thus admitted, haue you any one amongst you, who hath relinquished the same, and betaken himselfe to a course of life as a Lay man?

2 Whether doth your Minister reade Prayers, according to the Rubricke? or doth he on his owne head, alter any Prayers or Collect in the publike Liturgy, or doth he omit any appointed to be read in regard of Preaching, or any other respect? and doth he weare a Surplisse in time of the Officiating?

3 Whether doth he on Wednesdayes and Fridayes resort to the Church, and say the Letany prescribed: and doth your Clark or Sexton giue warning before by tolling of a Bell?

4 Whether doth he, being a licensed Preacher, preach euery Sunday? or not being a Preacher, doth he procure Monthly Sermons, and reade the Homilies of the Church; and once a yeare the Canons of the Church?

5 Whether doth he duly administer the Sacraments of the Church, according to the formes inioyned in the Booke of Common Prayer: and in speciall, doth he vse to signe the Infants baptized, with the signe of the Crosse?

6 Whether doth he giue due warning before the celebrating of the Communion, that the people may come better prepared? doth he declare to the people euery Sunday, whether there be any Holy-daies or Fasting-daies the weeke following; and doth he warne them to solemnize the Fifth of November?

7 Whether doth he at such times, as through the number of Communicants, new Bread and Wine are brought to the Lords Table, consecrate those Elements anew; & whether in so consecrating, doth he giue the Sacrament to euery one seuerally?

8 Whether, if any man sicke or in health, hauing confessed his

sins priuately vnto him (for the vnburthening of his conscience, and receiuing of spirituall comfort) hath the said Minister reuealed to any person whatsoeuer, such crimes and offences so committed to his trust and secrecie, contrary to the 113. Canon?

9 Whether doth he marry any parties without thrice asking the Banes, vpon three seuerall Sundaies or Holy-daies, except the said parties haue procured a License otherwise, either from the Lord Bishop, his Chancellor, or the Archdeacon of this Iurisdiction? or doth he marry at other houres and places then as Canon doth allow?

10 Whether doth your Minister in his Sermons, foure times in the yeare at the least, teach and declare the Kings Maiesties power within His Realmes, to be the highest power vnder God, to whom all within the same owe most loyalty and obedience, and that all forraigne power is vtterly taken away?

11 Whether doth he, euery halfe yeare, publikely denounce the Names of such as stand Excommunicate within your Parish? And whether doth he admit any Excommunicate person to partake with the Congregation, at the performance of the Holy duties in the Church?

12 Whether doth he giue Christian buriall to the corps of any Excommunicate person?

13 Whether doth he suffer any, who are inioyned to doe their publike Penance in the Church, in the face of the Congregation, to performe the same priuately in the Vestry, or otherwise at other times, when the Congregation is not assembled?

14 Whether doth he suffer any to be Godfathers or Godmothers to Children, to receiue the holy Communion, or to be married before they haue learn'd their Catechisme?

15 Whether doth he duly Catechise vpon euery Sunday and Holiday before Euening Prayer: and is he carefull in visiting the sicke, and in conferring with Recusants?

16 Whether doth he duly reside vpon his Benefice, and doth he keepe the Chancell (if so of right it belong vnto him) and his Parsonage or Vicarage-house in good reparation?

17 Whether doth your Preacher or Lecturer, before his Sermon, pray for Christs holy Catholike Church, the Kings Maiesty, the Lords Archbishops and Bishops, as is prescribed

Canon

Canon 55. And doth he twice every yeare at the least, reade Diuine Seruice both Morning and Euening, two seuerall Sundaies publikely in his Surplice; and also twice in the yeare administer the holy Sacraments, with such Rites and Ceremonies as is prescribed by the Booke of Common Prayer, according to the 56 Canon?

18 Whether doth any, being in holy Orders, goe otherwise in Apparell, then is commanded by the 74 Canon; doe they frequent Ale-houses, or any suspected places, or are they otherwise scandalous in their liues?

Concerning the Church and Churchyard.

1 Whether haue you in your Church, a large Bible of the last English translation; as likewise a faire Booke of Common Prayer, with the Booke of Homilies?

2 Whether haue you a decent Pulpit, a Font of stone, and a decent Communion Table, with a seemly couering of Silke or other Stuffe; and haue you a conuenient Pew for the Minister to reade Seruice in?

3 Whether haue you such Vels, Ornaments & other Vtensils, as haue anciently belonged to your Church, a Communion Cup of Siluer, a faire standing Pot or two, of Pewter or purer mettall, for the Wine vpon the Communion Table?

4 Whether haue you a Chest for Almes, a Register-booke of Christenings, Weddings, Burials, & wherein the name of euery strange Preacher, who preacheth among st you, is set downe?

5 Whether is there any Schoole taught within your Church, and by whom, and how is he allowed?

6 Whether is your Church kept in all due reparations, so well within as without: are the Seats well maintained, the Steeple and Vels preserued, the Windowes well glazed, and not closed vp with Wood, or dawbed vp with Lime and Stone; the Floore well paued, and all other things in order, as is meet for the house of God?

7 Whether is your Churchyard kept well fenced, and are not Hogs suffered to come and root in the same?

Concerning the Parishioners.

1 Whether haue you in your Parish, any common Swearer,

Drunkard, Quarreller, Scolds, filthy and lasciuious Talkers, Adulterers, or other Incontinent person, or who are vehemently suspected so to be?

2 Whether doe any in time of Diuine Seruice, vse prating, talking or sleeping in the Church or Churchyard, or otherwise not attending to the Word of God, and Prayers of the Church?

3 Whether doth any, of what ranke or quality whatsoeuer sit with his Hat on his head, in the time of Diuine Seruice?

4 Whether doe all, so oft as in time of Diuine Seruice, the holy Name of JESUS shall be mentioned, make due and lowly reuerence: doe they stand vp at the Creed, and at the reading of the Gospel?

5 Whether do any prophane the holy Communion Table, by leaning or sitting thereon, or throwing their Hats vpon it, or vse other like irreuerence?

6 Whether doe all of you with a loud voice, say with the Minister, the Lords Prayer and the Apostles Creed, as the Rubricke commands?

7 Whether doe any refuse to receiue the holy Communion kneeling: and whether haue you any aboue 16 yeares of age, who receiue not three times a yeare, whereof one to be at Easter?

8 Whether haue you any who presumes to disturb or affront the Minister in his Ministry; or who haue spoken scandalous words against him or his calling?

9 Whether haue you any who hold priuate Conuenticles, and what be their names?

10 Whether haue you any, who leauing their owne Parish Church, vpon Sundaies or Holy-daies, goe to other Ministers and desert their owne?

11 Whether haue you any, who shewing thereby the little regard they haue to the house of God, make water against the Church wals, or vse other vncomelinesse about the same?

12 Whether haue you any Inne-keeper, Vintner or Alehouse-keeper, who in time of Diuine Seruice intertaine any one, either drinking or gaming?

13 Whether haue you any Women, who refuse to goe to the Church to be Churched after their Childe-bearing, there to giue God thanks for their safe deliuerance?

14 Whe-

14 Whether doe any refuse to send their Children and Seruants to be Catechised?

15 Whether is your Parish Clarke a meet man for his Office, and what age is he?

16 Whether haue you any who speake against Ecclesiasticall Gouernment of the Church, vnder his Maiesty, by Archbishops, Bishops, Deanes, Archdeacons, and others thereunto called?

17 Whether haue you any negligent comers to Church, who either quite absent themselues from the same; or else who come late when Prayers are almost done, or who depart out of the Church, before the Minister pronounce the Blessing?

18 Whether doe any raise a scandall of the Churchwardens or Side-men, by saying that they Present vpon spleene or malice, when they do it in discharge of their office, and no otherwise?

Concerning Churchwardens, and Sworn-men.

1 Whether doe any in your Parish take vpon them to be Churchwardens or Side-men, which is not lawfully chosen by the Minister and Parishioners, according to the Canon; or doe any continue in the office longer than one yeare, except they be chosen againe, or that it be a custome of your Parish, for a Churchwarden to continue two yeares; and are all such Officers chosen yearly in Easter weeke?

2 Whether doe your Churchwardens, within one moneth at the most, after their yeare ended, before the Minister and Parishioners, giue vp a iust account of all such money and other things as they haue receiued and bestowed: haue they deliuered all remaining in their hands, belonging to their Church or Parish, by Will indented, to be indented, to be deliuered to the next Churchwardens?

3 Whether haue the Churchwardens, with the aduice of the Minister from time to time, prouided a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and wholesome Wine, for the number of Communicants?

4 Whether doe you the Churchwardens and Side-men, about the midst of Diuine Seruice, vsually walk out of the Church, & see who are abroad in any Alehouse, or elsewhere absent, or euilly imployed; and haue you presented all such offenders to the

5 Whether doe the Churchwardens and their Assistants, suffer any Playes, Feasts, Banquets, &c. or any other prophane plage to be kept in the Church, Chappell or Churchyard; or the Bels to be rung superstitiously upon Holy-daies or Eves, abrogated by the Booke of Common Prayer, or at any other time, without good cause to be allowed by the Minister of the place, and by themselues?

6 Whether doe you know or beare a fame of any offence committed, or duly omitted by any of your Parish, before your time, and heretofore, not Presented by your former Churchwardens to the Ordinary, or as yet not reformed; and haue you Presented the same?

7 Finally, doe you know of any matter or cause, which is a breach of the Lawes Ecclesiasticall, not here expressed, and haue you Presented the same?

The Minister of every Parish may joyne in Presentment with the Churchwardens and Side-men; and if they will not Present, then the Ministers themselves (being the persons that should haue the chief care for the suppressing of Sin and Impiety in their Parishes) may Present the Crimes aforesaid, and such things as shall be thought to require due reformation; Canon 113.

There must be severall Presentments made to every severall Article.

FINIS.